

put forward his sweeping health care proposal which featured universal coverage and a mandate on employers to provide health insurance for their employees. But his plan was decisively rejected and led, in large part, to the change of control in Congress in 1994. The Clinton health care proposal was rejected because people felt it was too massive, too complex, and its consequences too uncertain. The bill was about 1300 pages in length.

Although the rejection of Clinton's proposal made both the Congress and the President wary of comprehensive health care reform, the issue did not die. Today, members of Congress are keenly aware of the intensity of their constituents' feelings on health care. The public is demanding better care for less money. They do not like the high cost of health care or the restrictions on its availability. They know the shortcomings in today's system: too many Americans, especially children, do not have adequate health care coverage; long-term care for older persons is unaffordable to most Americans; and many feel that managed care plans focus more on holding costs down than providing quality care.

INCREMENTAL REFORM

On health care, as on many issues, Americans are more comfortable with incremental steps and skeptical of massive changes in one swoop. For the next few years, my guess is that the Congress will proceed with improvements in health care on a step-by-step basis. That's what it tried to do two years ago with the Kennedy-Kassenbaum legislation which mandated portability in most insurance plans, enabling workers to change jobs and not be dropped for preexisting conditions, and last year when it expanded coverage for children.

In the Congress, both parties are proposing plans to patch up managed care with such measures as expanding a patient's ability to choose a doctor and to receive emergency care and to appeal plan decisions to a neutral third party.

It is quite possible that the Congress will approve this year a sensible, but modest, health care reform package which I would expect to support. The elements of the package would likely include new opportunities for patients to appeal to a neutral third party when their health plans deny them care, give more information to help them select doctors and health plans, provide women the right to see a gynecologist, guarantee emergency room access without prior approval from managed care plans, protect personal medical information, and allow doctors to discuss with their patients a full range of medical options.

CONCLUSION

We are in the midst of major changes in health care coverage. A decade ago, the majority of Americans received health care through traditional fee-for-service plans. Today most Americans receive their health care through managed care, usually through HMOs. Lower costs and a wider array of benefits, including prescription drug benefits, are often seen as advantages of managed care plans. As the reform debate goes forward it is important to build on the success of what is developing into a more efficient health care system, while improving both the quality of care and patient satisfaction with their health care services. My guess is that health care reform will be on the agenda of the Congress for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO LISA MENDOSA

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lisa Mendosa. Lisa Mendosa, an accomplished woman of the '90s, has added the title of Community Relations Coordinator of Borders Books to her credit. Having worked in numerous fields, Lisa Mendosa is in many respects, considered a renaissance woman.

Lisa Mendosa has had an impressive career, yet still has much of her life ahead of her. In 1987, she was named one of America's top 100 women in Communications/Hispanic USA. In the same year she also won an award in the Associated Press television-radio competition. In 1989, she was named one of America's top 100 junior college graduates. In 1995, Lisa Mendosa received an Emmy Award for her coverage of the Leer Jet crash in Fresno.

Lisa Mendosa has also published a number of books on animals and children. She has a great love for animals and has raised two dogs from the age of eight weeks and studied their development for more than 8 years. Lisa Mendosa spent 17 years working in TV news researching, writing, producing and presenting thousands of news stories. At Channel 24, Lisa went from management to producer. After winning her Emmy, Lisa was offered a position by Channel 30, which she took. Currently, she is a Community Relations Coordinator for Borders Books. Today, she works harder than ever to establish a close community relationship with the Borders Book's staff.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to Lisa Mendosa. Already being an accomplished woman of the '90's and considered a renaissance woman, Lisa Mendosa continues to be dedicated to her work. Her dedication and exemplary efforts should serve as an inspiration to all. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Lisa Mendosa continued success for the future.

CONGRATULATING THE PARK RIDGE ROTARY CLUB

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Park Ridge (New Jersey) Rotary Club on its 70th anniversary. This group of business men and women is a cornerstone of public service in our community. Their dedication and hard work have helped groups ranging from the Boy Scouts to the handicapped. They help keep alive the old-fashioned value of neighbor helping neighbor—the type of value that makes a community a community.

The Park Ridge Rotary Club was chartered November 19, 1928, and held its first meeting December 14, 1928, at the Masonic Hall in Park Ridge. Of the 25 charter members present at that meeting, one—Charlie Grey—is still active at age 96. There are 63 members in today's club, which serves the Tri-Boro area of Park Ridge, Montvale and Woodcliff Lake.

The Rotary had its beginnings in February 1905, when Chicago attorney Paul P. Harris called three businessmen friends to a meeting. He proposed a club that would kindle fellowship among members of the business community and by the end of the year, the club had 30 members. The name Rotary was adopted because meetings were rotated among the members' place of business. Rotary Clubs were formed in San Francisco, Seattle, Washington, Los Angeles and New York in the next few years. By 1921, the organization was represented on every continent and the name Rotary International was adopted in 1922. Today, there are more than 24,000 Rotary Clubs with a membership of 1.1 million in 167 countries.

At the international level, Rotary is involved in many humanitarian projects, including educational grants for overseas study, a \$200 million program to eradicate polio worldwide, youth and group exchanges between nations to foster international understanding, hunger and health programs in developing countries, and financial aid to disaster relief programs.

At the local level, the Park Ridge Rotary is involved in a wide variety of community service programs. The Rotary distributes annual holiday food baskets to the handicapped, sponsors a holiday party for the handicapped, sponsors the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards and an exchange student program. It supports the Tri-Boro Ambulance, Meals on Wheels, the Park Ridge High School and Pascack Valley High School Interact Clubs, the Park Ridge and Montvale Eagle Scout Awards, the Park Ridge Public Library and many other organizations, events and programs.

The Park Ridge Rotary Club has helped make Park Ridge—along with Montvale and Woodcliff Lake—a better place to live, work and raise a family for 70 years. I join with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to wish the Club and its members many more years of continued success.

PROMPT COMPENSATION ACT OF 1998

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an issue that is extremely important, private property rights. All of us have heard from constituents in our districts who are frustrated with the process by which the government provides compensation to landowners for the private property it acquires. As you know, the federal government obtains private property for all types of reasons, from community and infrastructure development to environmental concerns. Unfortunately, it is common for this process to take several years, during which, the property owner is discouraged from conducting any type of development or improvement activity upon their land. It is for this reason that I will soon be introducing The Prompt Compensation Act of 1998.

Currently, the federal government has two alternatives available in acquiring private property. The first is termed as a "straight condemnation" procedure where a landowner receives notification that a federal agency has requested the Justice Department to file a complaint in condemnation in an attempt to

acquire their property. The complaint is filed with the district court of the district where the land is located and the appropriate compensation is ascertained. Once this process is completed, the federal government is afforded the option of paying this amount and assuming the title of the land or moving for dismissal, in which case, the title of the property remains with the original owner. It is important to remember that during this process, the landowner's opportunity to conduct any type of development is severely limited, depriving these individuals of time, revenue and, in some cases, overall value in their land.

The second alternative is termed a "quick-take" procedure where the title of the property is immediately transferred to the federal government and an amount, which the government presumes the land is worth, is provided to the owner. Normal protocol is then followed, a condemnation complaint is filed and the court determines just compensation. If this amount is more than that originally provided, the federal government is required to pay the difference with interest.

The Prompt Compensation Act of 1998 will require the federal government to provide just compensation to the property owner within 90 days or forfeit its interest. In other words, this legislation will simply make the "quick-take" procedure the only option available to the federal government. The Prompt Compensation Act of 1998 will require the federal government to strongly consider all viable alternatives before attempting to acquire new land and prevent landowners from losing valuable time in developing their property. I urge all my colleagues to become a cosponsor of this bill and to strongly consider the significant impact this legislation will have in curbing the taking authority of the federal government, while at the same time, strengthening the private property rights of America's landowners.

IN PRAISE OF INGHAM COUNTY'S
EFFORTS TO REDUCE TEEN
SMOKING

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the outstanding work of the Ingham County Board of Commissioners and the Ingham County Health Department in restricting the sale of tobacco to minors. The Ingham County Board of Commissioners passed an ordinance effective January 1, 1993 requiring that tobacco could only be sold through establishments licensed by the county. For violations, the Health Department can issue citations and for repeated violations have the license to sell tobacco revoked.

These enforcement provisions are similar to many used for enforcing liquor laws in communities which have been very effective in curbing the sale of liquor to minors. The possibility of losing a license to sell liquor or tobacco for a violation of law has proven to have a significant impact on the business community's self monitoring activities.

In 1992, 78% of minors who attempted to purchase cigarettes in Ingham County were successfully able to make a purchase. In other words, only 22% of all minors were refused

the sale. Since the ordinance was instituted in the county in 1993, that number has declined dramatically. In a recent investigation conducted in Ingham county, 85% of all minors who attempted to purchase cigarettes were denied the sale. These are impressive statistics that I would like to see repeated across the nation.

The war against teen smoking will only be successful if it is fought on many fronts. Tough, comprehensive laws must be passed at the federal level. And, we must work in partnership with states and local governments if we are to be successful. I encourage state and local governments across our country to join the fight and follow the example set by Ingham County by instituting laws in their communities that prevent minors from purchasing cigarettes. I commend the efforts of the Ingham County Board of Commissioners and the Ingham County Health Department for making a bold effort to improve the health and welfare of our community's youngest citizens.

BALINT VAZSONYI: TRUE
AMERICAN

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Dr. Balint Vazsonyi as a true American. Balint Vazsonyi knows first-hand what it means to live in fear, as he has done so under Nazi occupation then under Communist oppression in his native Hungary.

Overcoming the barriers to human expression put up by authoritarian states, Dr. Vazsonyi has since become a world-renowned concert pianist, and a well-respected historian and ultimately a United States citizen.

Dr. Vazsonyi, or just plain "Balint", is a regular op-ed contributor to the Washington Times as well as several other newspapers around the country. He sits on the boards of many community groups and is the Director of the Center for the American Founding. As a child he lived under Nazi terror and as an adolescent he participated in the Hungarian uprising against the Soviet occupiers.

Balint's musical career is well known. He received his Artist Diploma at Budapest's famed Liszt Academy. Just recently, the Hungarian Embassy in Washington, DC presented him a gala piano recital in celebration of the 50th anniversary of his first concert appearance in Hungary. Balint also has a Ph.D. in history.

I highly recommend to my colleagues, and all Americans, his new book, "America's 30 Years War: Who is Winning?" Drawing on his own life experiences he describes how our hard-won freedoms are gradually being eroded. Vazsonyi traces the essence of what makes America unique, from the Founding until today, and exposes how ideas imported from European socialist states are undermining America's distinct political and moral culture.

In a witty and personal style, Balint documents how the founding principles of the rule of law, individual rights, secure ownership of property and common American identity are being deliberately supplanted by the alien notions of group rights, forced redistribution of private possessions, and multiculturalism.

In "America's 30 Years War: Who is Winning?" Dr. Vazsonyi shows, with unmistakably clarity, how every time we move away from America's founding principles we move toward the failed model of European socialism.

Please take time to read this seminal and through-provoking book.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Dr. Balint Vazsonyi on his many accomplishments and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him many more years of success.

SOCIAL SECURITY

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, July 8, 1998 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM

In recent months, much attention has been focused in Congress on the status of the Social Security program. Following President Clinton's State of the Union address this past January in which he recommended that saving Social Security be a top priority, reform proposals have become a hot topic. The most widely discussed proposals include investing some of the Social Security Trust Fund in the stock market, adding a meanstest requirement, or enacting a combination of tax cuts and benefit reductions.

SUCCESS OF SOCIAL SECURITY

Social Security is not only a very popular program but has also proven to be an extremely successful program in providing a safety net for our nation's elderly.

Since the program began under President Franklin Roosevelt in 1935, Social Security has provided benefits to generations of workers and their families, with the number of beneficiaries over the last half century in excess of 160 million Americans. With almost 92% of Americans over the age of 65 receiving Social Security benefits, this program provides nearly universal coverage. In Indiana, over 960,000 Hoosiers are beneficiaries, covering over 17% of our state's population. Therefore, Social Security has played, and continues to play, an important role in the lives of many beneficiaries and their families.

In addition to serving as a broad safety net for millions of Americans, Social Security is also the largest anti-poverty program. By some estimates, half of our nation's elderly (about 18 million people) would live in poverty if Social Security did not exist. Last year, two-thirds of the elderly in America were provided benefits from Social Security that represented at least half of their income. Social Security is more than simply a retirement program. More than a third of benefits go to widows or widowers, children, and the disabled.

LONG-TERM SOLVENCY

Social Security is our largest domestic social program. In 1996, the benefits paid out exceeded \$347 billion. Social Security has been able to pay these benefits with great efficiency. Administration costs for Social Security are about 1% of benefits, compared to the 12-14% that is typical for private insurance plans. But while the program has operated with relative efficiency over the years, there still remain significant challenges to the long-term financial health of Social Security. In particular, the impending increase in the number of retirees and the increase in